



20TH CENTURY
TERRE HAUTE

ILLUSTRATED



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TWENTIETH CENTURY SOUVENIR

... OF ...

TERRE HAUTE

ILLUSTRATED

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F. J. GARDON, Compiler.

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INTRODUCTORY.

This volume is not a mere advertising scheme, to make money for the parties interested in its publication, but to present a pictorial representation of Terre Haute's more prominent citizens—those who have achieved a fine measure of success in the business or other walks of life; the many institutions of which the city has occasion to be so proud, and other points of interest as they appear in this early year, 1903, of this twentieth century. The ever accurate camera here conveys impressions more forcible than mere words can express. History records that the State of Indiana, and the City of Terre Haute, are of the same age, both having been born in 1816. At the time of their birth there was certainly nothing to indicate what either the State or the City would be at the dawn of this twentieth century. Our immense forests of giant oak, poplar, and walnut, and other of the many valuable woods were then standing, and the foot prints of civilization had hardly touched our virgin soil. Thirteen (13) years after the birth of the town, in 1829, Mr. Charles T. Noble, then Deputy County Clerk under Mr. Curtis Gilbert, took an informal census of the town. There is a "legend" that Uncle Charley took this census as the result of a bet made by him with Captain Wasson—"Mine Host" of the "Eagle and Lion," Terre Haute's first hostelry. The bet was that we had a population here of more than 500. Mr. Noble's census showed 579 inhabitants. Captain Wasson, however, claimed that quite a number of these inhabitants were quietly sleeping in the old "Indian Orchard"—Terre Haute's first cemetery. The city was incorporated June 5, 1853. Another census was taken by Mr. Noble in 1835, which showed a population of some 1,200 inhabitants. The first United States census was taken in 1840, and showed 2,300. 1850—3,672. 1860—8,594. 1870—16,103. 1880—26,042. 1890—30,217, a steady, but conservative, growth. Unlike a number of other cities in the state, no extension of the city limits was made between 1890 and 1900, consequently the census of 1900 showed an increase, within the old limits, of only some 7,000. Our suburban growth, however, has been very marked within this period, and steps are being taken, at this time, looking to the enlargement of our corporate limits, which, when effected, give the city a population of at least sixty thousand (60,000).

Terre Haute's golden jubilee, as a city, was commemorated by our local press within the past month. The day of jubilee found us a vigorous, growing municipality with progress stamped upon every walk of life. Peace, progress, and prosperity are now more indelibly inscribed upon our banner than at any time within the fifty years of our existence as a city. In an article written for one of our city papers, commemorating the golden anniversary of our existence as a city, there are several facts of special interest which we take pleasure in reproducing, but only in part, as our space forbids its full reproduction. He says:

"Fifty years have just elapsed since Terre Haute bloomed out as a City, full hedged and full of radiant hope. We are pleased to record that, in the grand march of progress and improvement, Terre Haute has 'kept up with the procession,' and has been no laggard in the race.

The city has been a fair type of a reasonably wide-awake and progressive western city. Under the new constitution of the State of Indiana, which was adopted in 1852, a general law was enacted providing for the incorporation of cities, authorizing towns, having a population of 3,000 and upward, to become incorporated. Under the operation of this law in April, 1853, Terre Haute became incorporated as a city. The first election was held May 30, 1853. William K. Edwards, then a young lawyer, who had come here from Louisville, Ky., and who was then Mr. Chauncey Rose's private secretary and business manager, was chosen first mayor of the city. He was re-elected to the office the year following. At the time of its incorporation the city of Terre Haute had a population of but little over 4,000, although even then, it ranked fifth in the state as to population and business. At the time of the incorporation of the city there was not a city in the state that contained a population of even 10,000. Madison, New Albany, and Lafayette each outranked us then, in population, and business importance. We have long since outgrown either of them, both as to population and business.

It is interesting to note the wonderful progress of Terre Haute, since she doffed her village garments and assumed the more pretentious robes of cityhood. It can be said of her, however, when she made this notable change, that she was eminently a city in embryo, still wearing her frontier airs and primitive customs. Gas had not then been introduced in the city; not a foot of sewer had been constructed; the sidewalks were paved with brick, only in spot, around the old court house square, and on Main street hardy east of Fourth.

Today Terre Haute is a well paved city, with an excellent sewer system. In her educational and charitable institutions, and the number of students Terre Haute is second to no city in the state.

It is gratifying to know that Terre Haute has never been the victim of mal-administration, inefficient or mischievous corporate government can inflict great injury upon a city, upon its business and its character. There are many examples of the baneful effect of municipal mal-administration to be found in this country. If the city, the county and the state are properly cared for, the nation will take care of itself, in spite of the politicians. Conservatism has marked, in an eminent degree, our municipal government, regardless of the particular political party in power at the time. The financial character of Terre Haute, as a city, has always stood well. Its bonds and obligations have always demanded a premium in the market. Fortune has ever smiled upon us. Since the organization of the old "Terre Haute Company," which laid out the town, it has never had an epidemic whose ravages have desolated its people. The dread cyclone, the tornado, and the storm which carries destruction in its path, have never visited this fair domain. We have never had any very destructive conflagrations, nor any riotous uprising of our people which hurt or harmed any innocent person—our citizens are law-abiding. While it has never had what may be termed a spasmodic boom, not a year has passed, probably with the exception of the four (4) years of the war, when so much of its brain and muscle, was away from home, helping Uncle Sam, but

that the town has gone right along, in building, in business, and in general progress. When the value of our coal fields, with their inexhaustable resources of splendid fuel, was first becoming known and appreciated, a little more than twenty years ago, the discovery of natural gas in the eastern and central parts of the state, diverted from us hundreds of manufacturing enterprises, many of them of great magnitude, but the admitted failure of that product has opened up a new era of prosperity, which has certainly now dawned upon us. In many divergent lines Terre Haute stands pre-eminent among her sister cities of this Mississippi valley. There is no city of 80,000 population to be found anywhere in the three great states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, which today can surpass us in the three most important considerations which control the location of manufacturing enterprises, and, we say this with special emphasis and challenge successful contradiction. These three things are:

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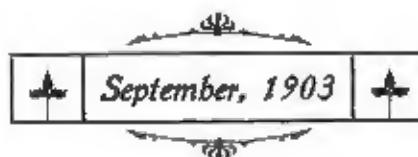
The building of the Indiana Southern Railroad, completed within the last two years, and penetrating the inexhaustible fields of coal, oolitic stone, and other valuable products and minerals, with the promise of future connections held out by that most enterprising railroad magnate of today, Mr. John R. Walsh, of Chicago, has opened up a new era, not only for this city, but for our adjacent territory.

Of the splendid work done by our Commercial Club within the past three years, and since the census of 1900 was taken, in securing for us a full dozen new manufacturing enterprises, it is hardly necessary to

speak. Through our Commercial Club and the new industries it has procured, Terre Haute is the best advertised town in the state, and requires no words of inflation to herald its excellency. There is every reason to believe, based upon facts, which appear incontrovertible, that the census of 1910 will show a development and a growth greater than at any time in the past. Unless all signs fail that census will show Terre Haute the second city in the state. Her advantages are today known, and all we have to say to him who would seek a new location in any enterprise or business, come and look for yourself. We hold out no false or alluring representations that investigation will belie.

Within the past thirty days a new enterprise, involving a local expenditure approximating a half million dollars (\$500,000), has been located here, without a dollar of bonus, and, after a full investigation of several competing cities, who were solicitous of its location, we mean the new "Commercial Distillery," work upon which began only some ten days ago, and which is being pushed to completion, day and night, in order to meet the crop of corn which matures this fall. One of the largest capitalists in this enterprise told the writer hereof, only yesterday, that in deciding upon this city for the location of their giant enterprise, they considered only the three things above enumerated—cheap fuel, pure water, and superior railroad facilities. In neither of these respects could they find a city which surpassed us in these particulars, anywhere in the great corn belt of this Mississippi valley. The "Commercial Distillery" is to have a capacity of 10,000 bushels of corn per day, which makes it an enterprise second to no other manufacturing the same product, probably in the world.

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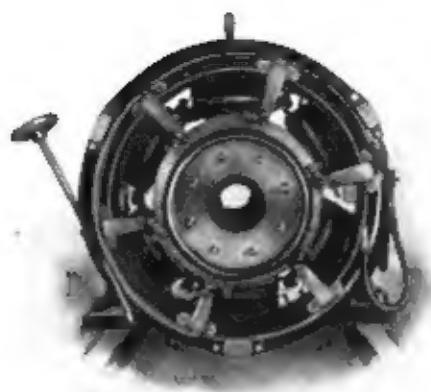
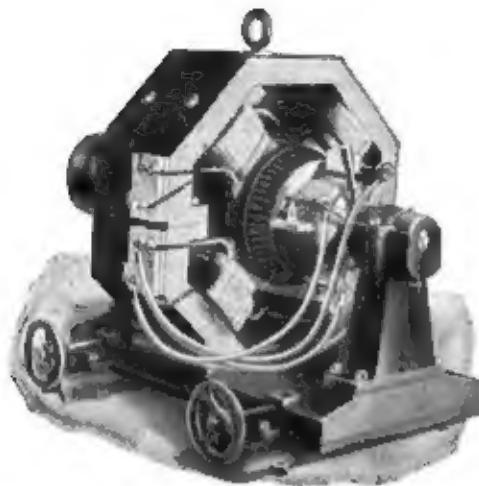
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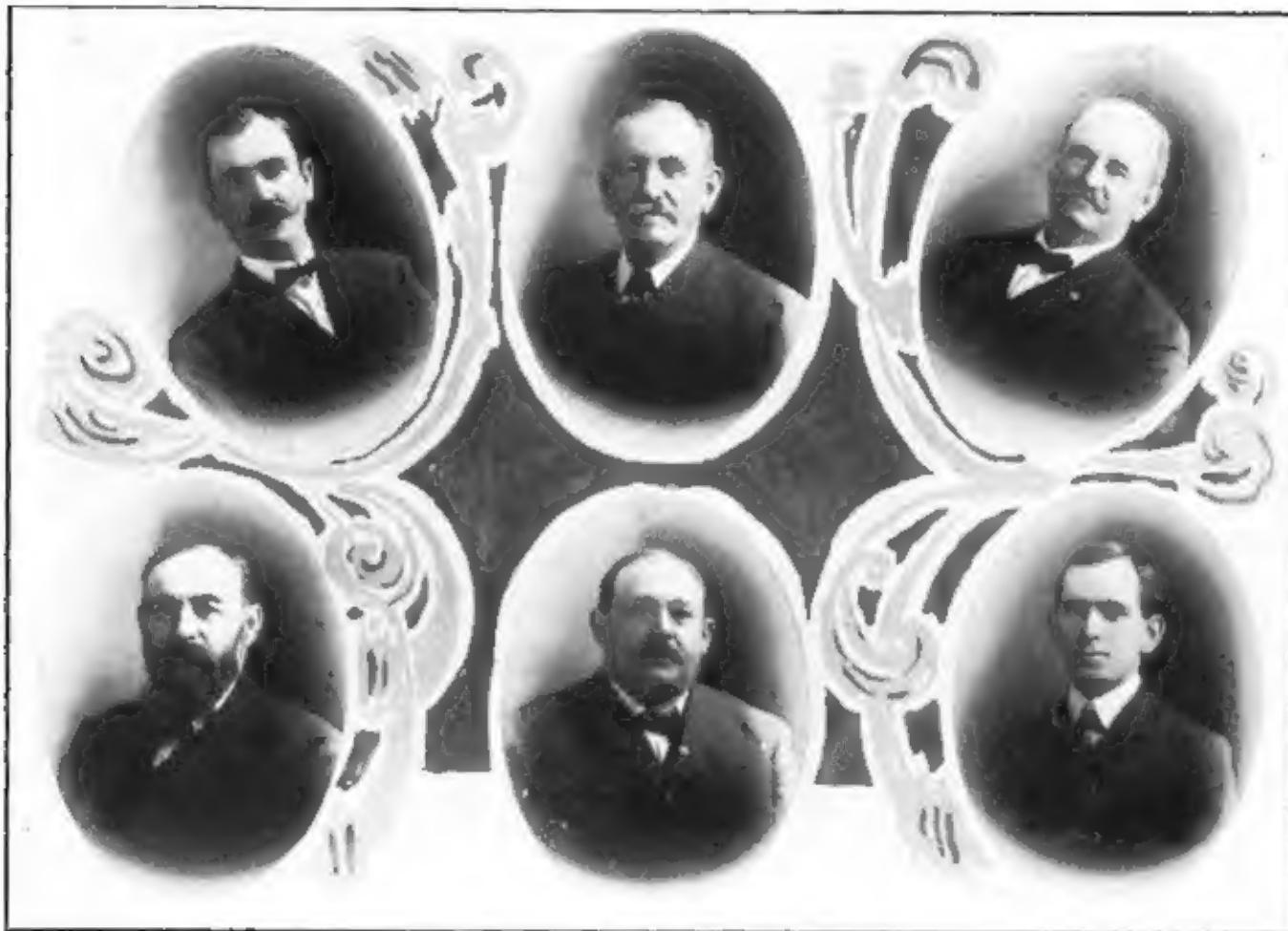
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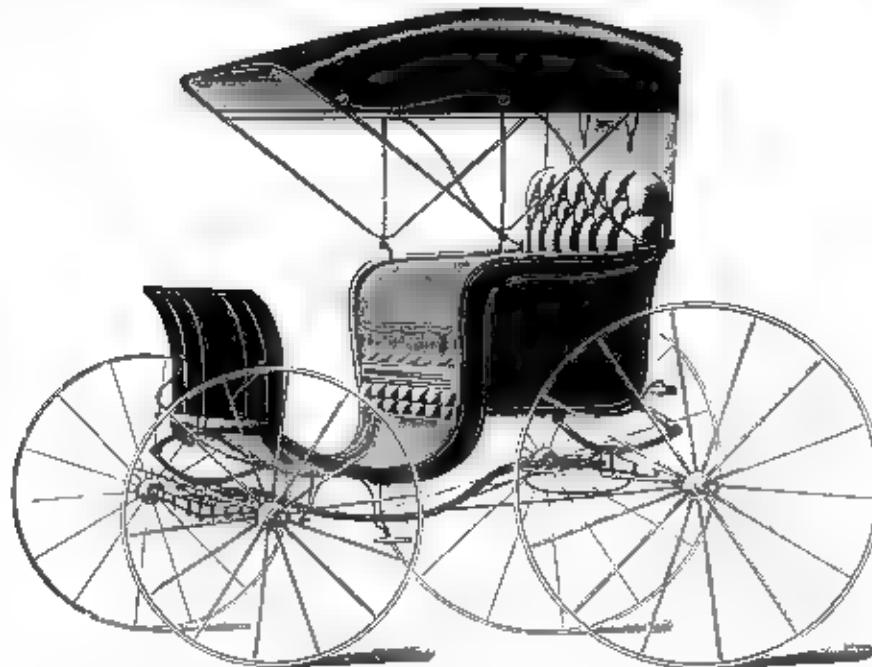
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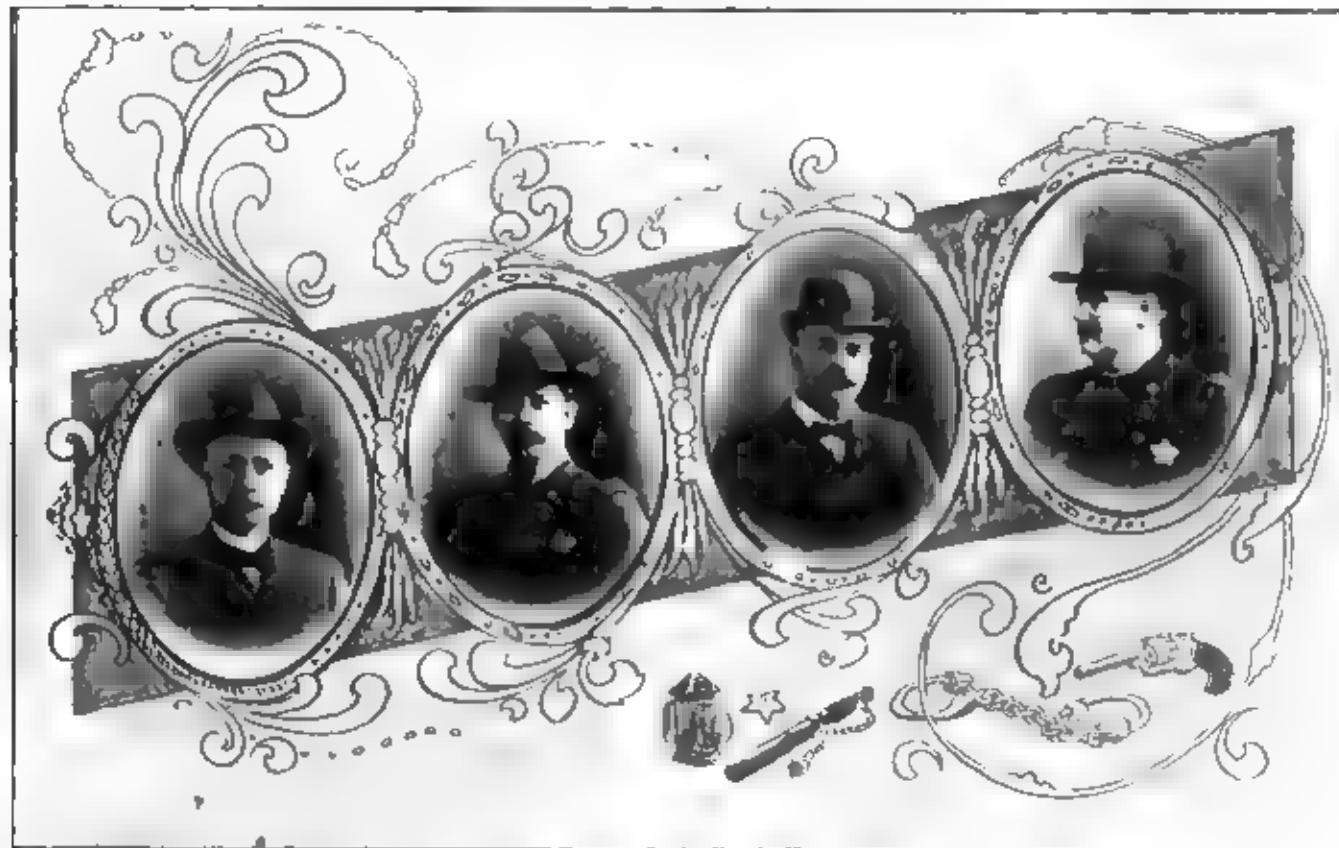
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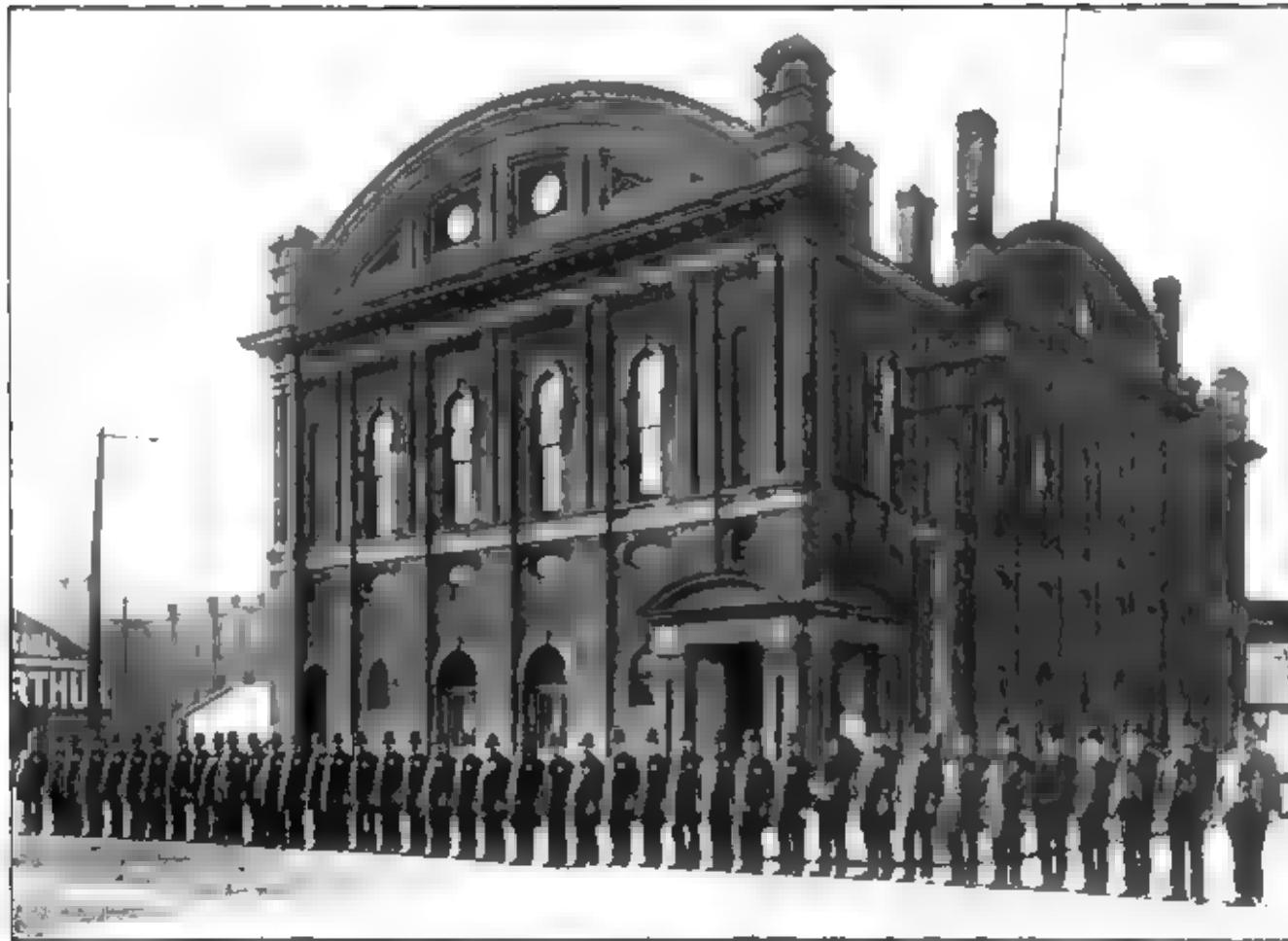
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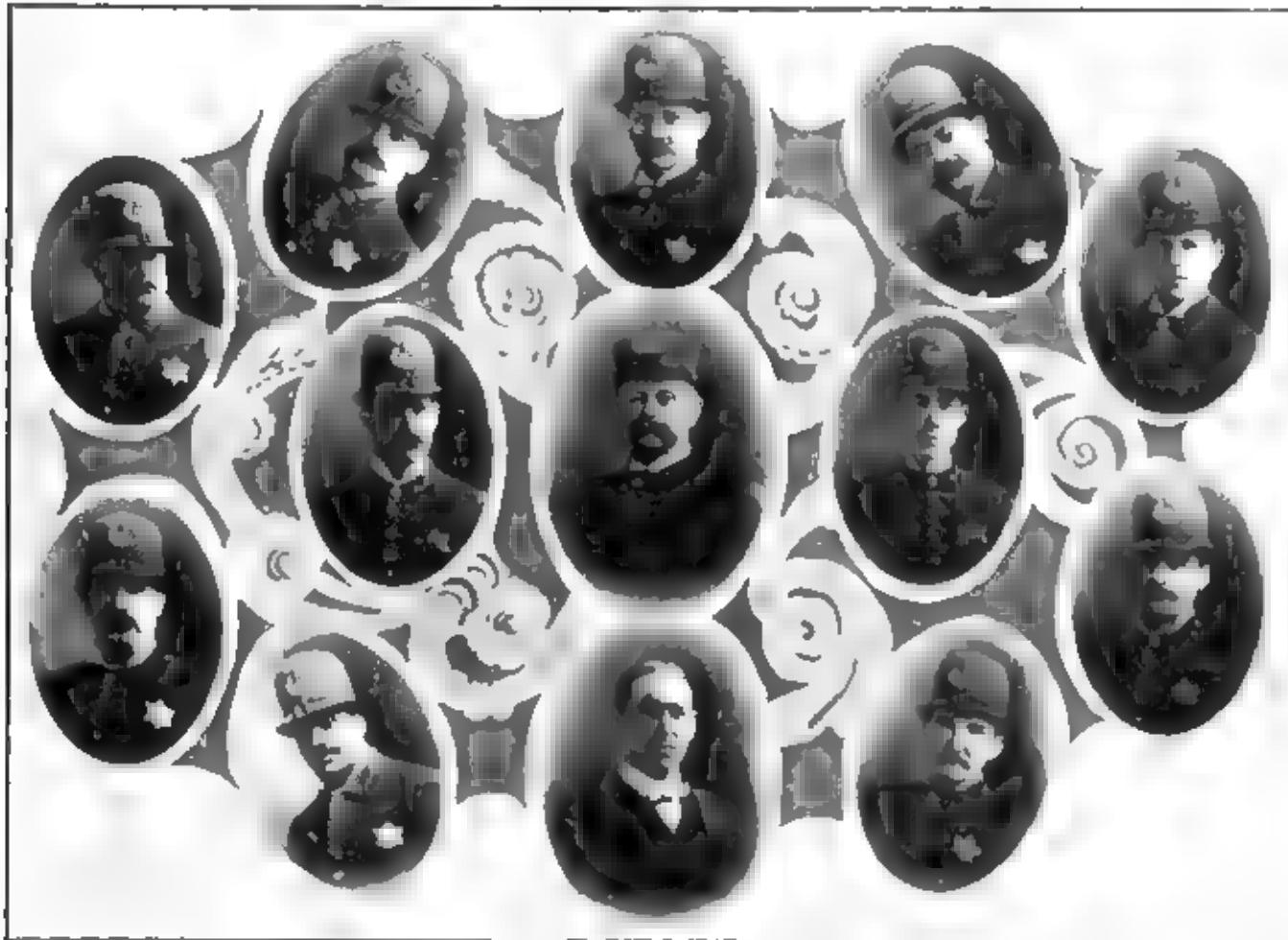
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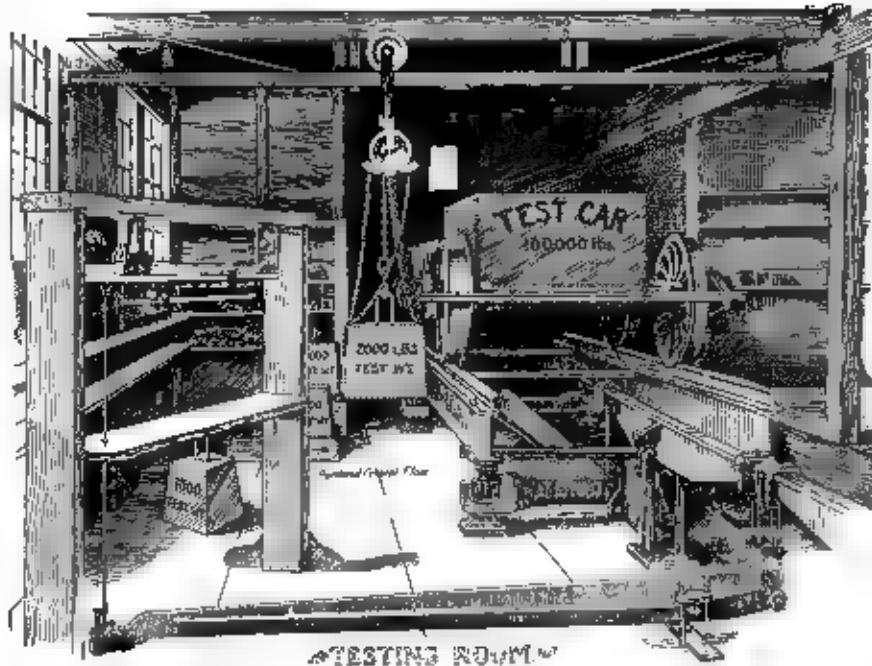
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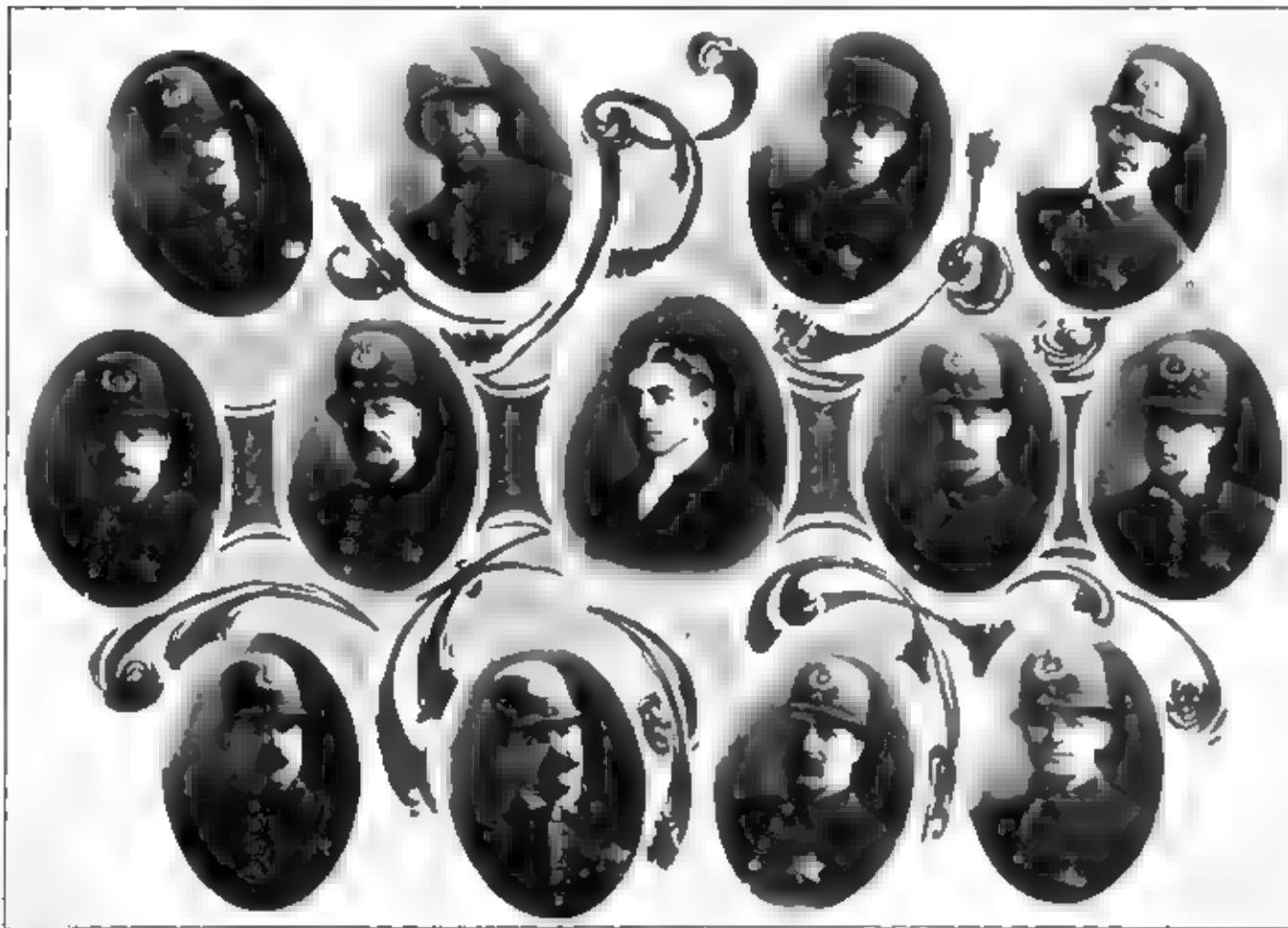
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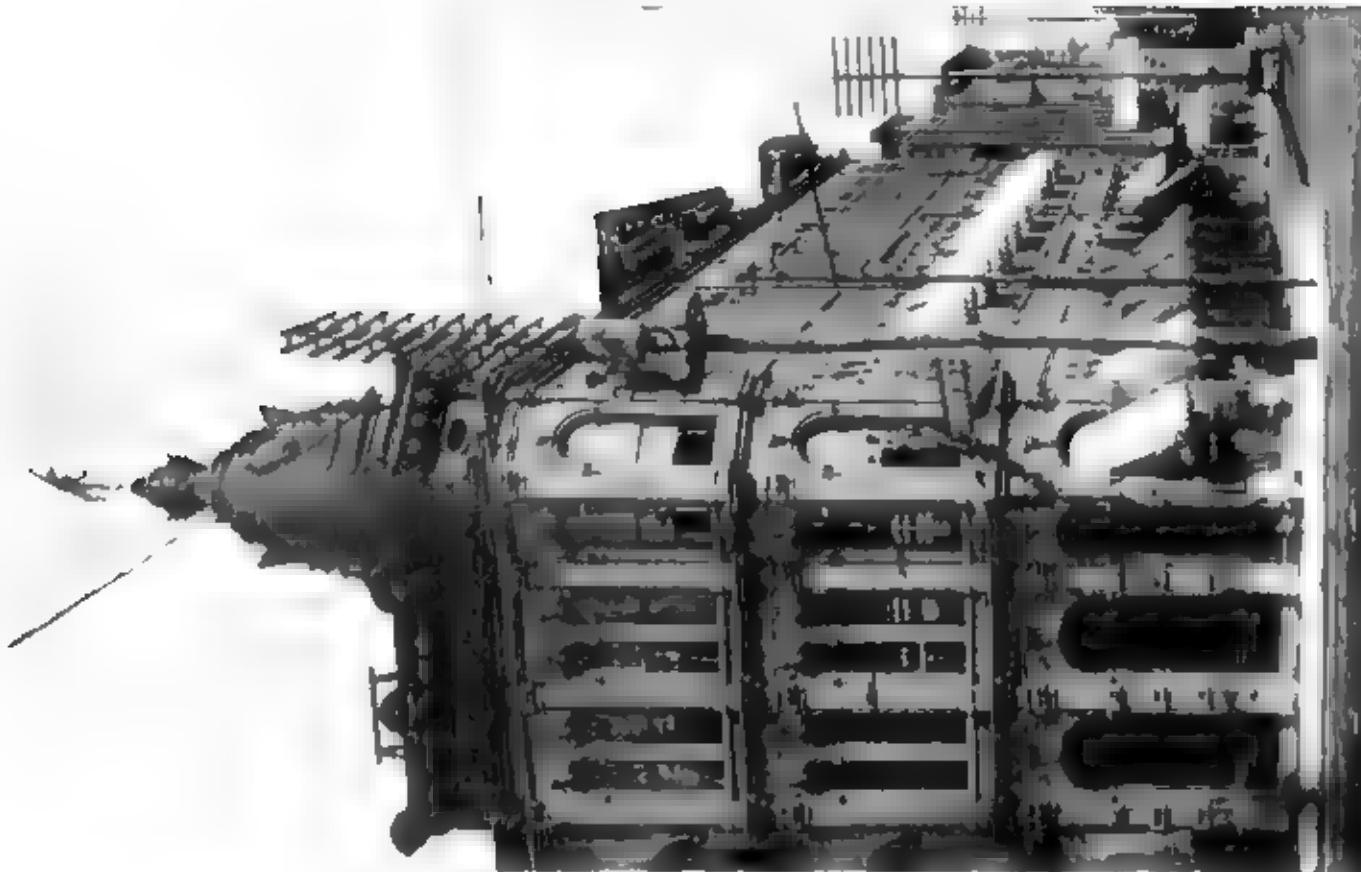


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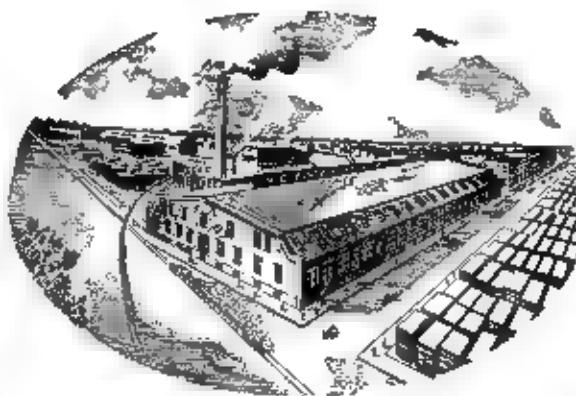
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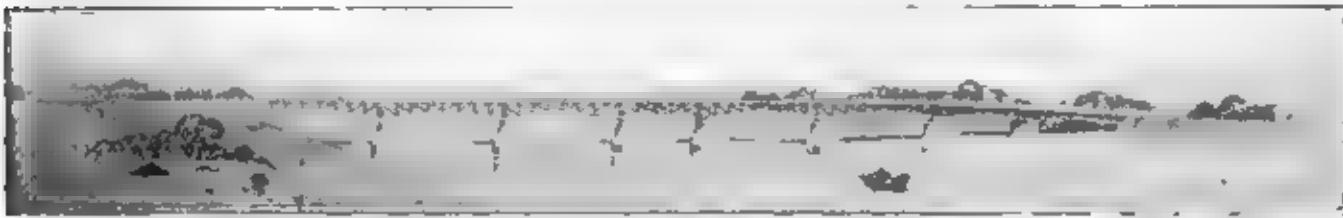
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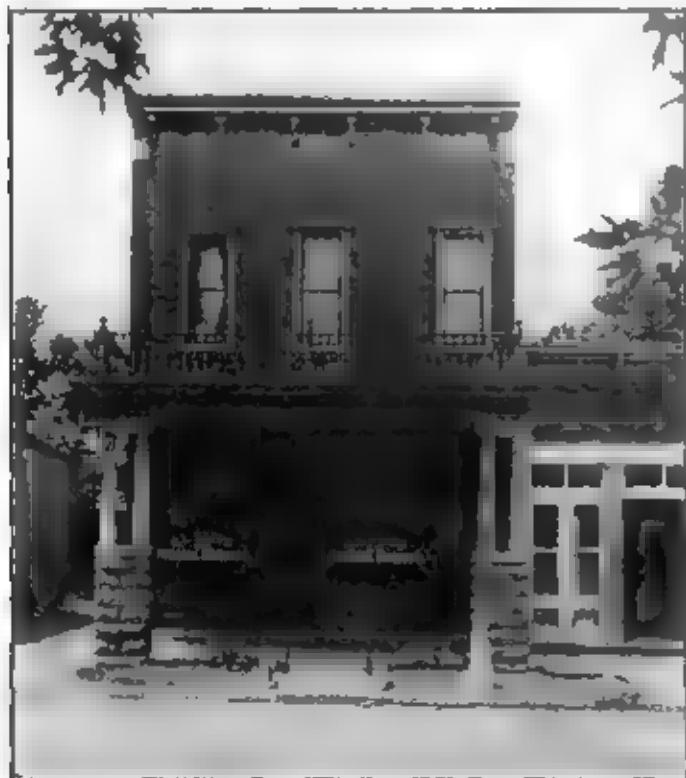


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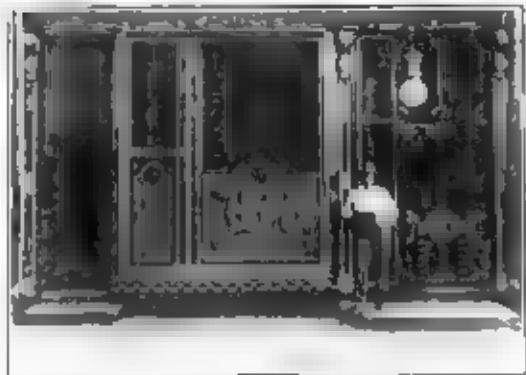
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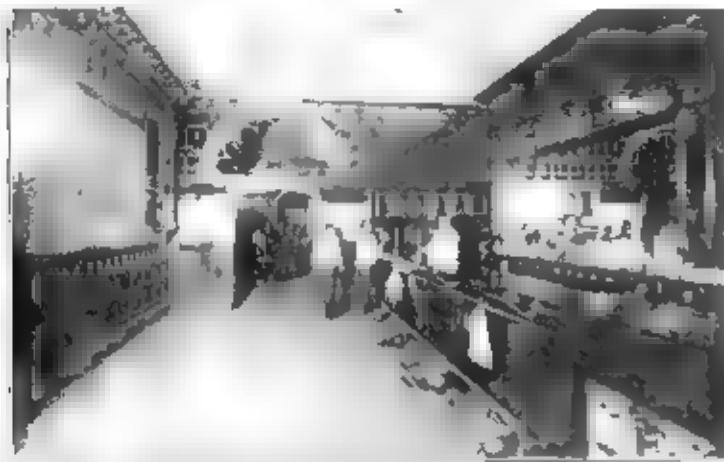
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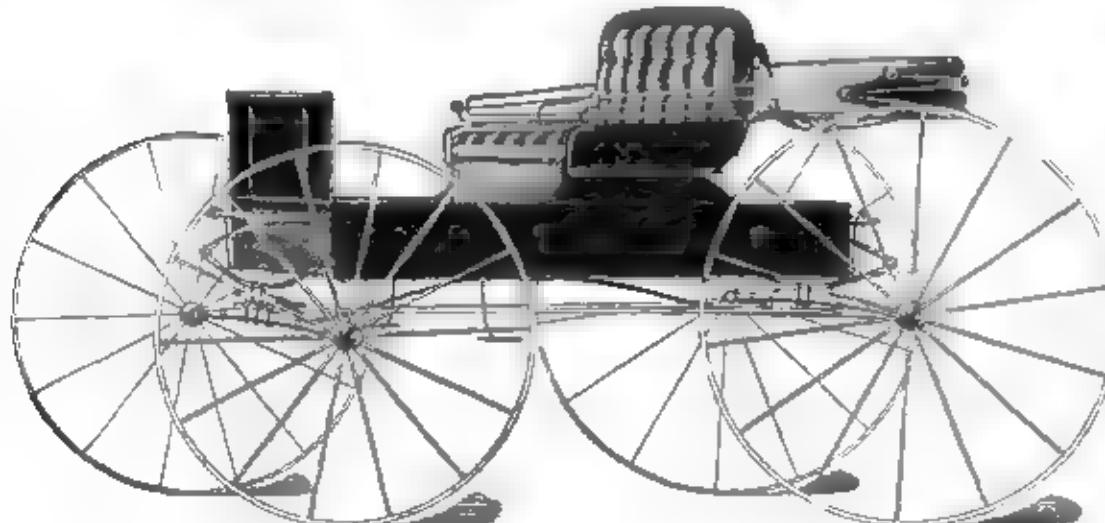
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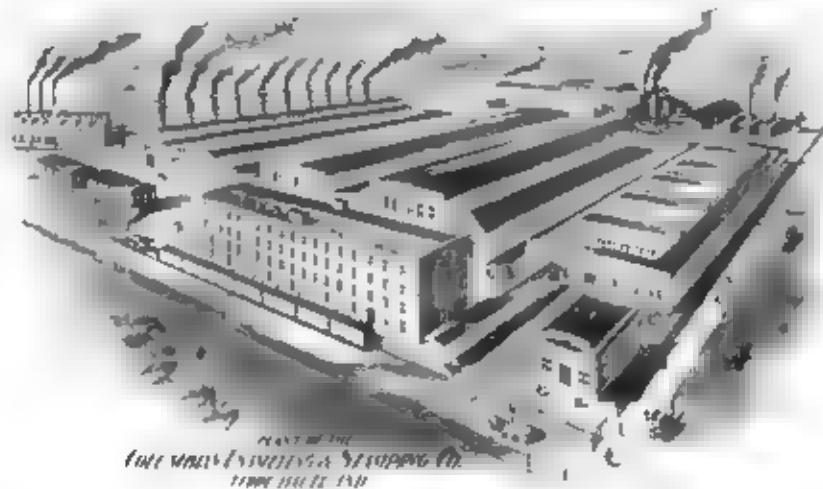
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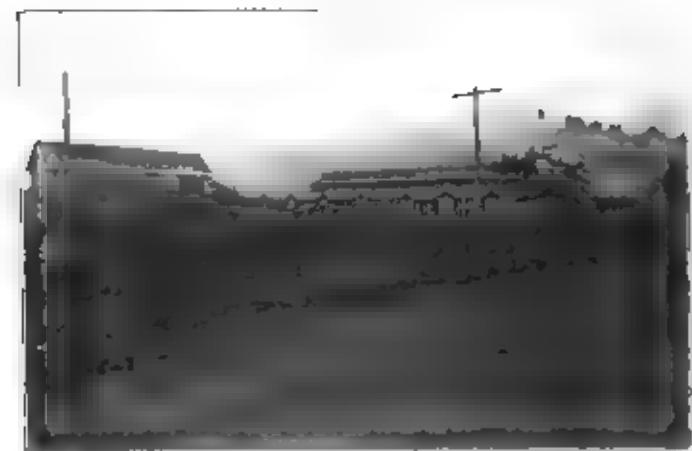


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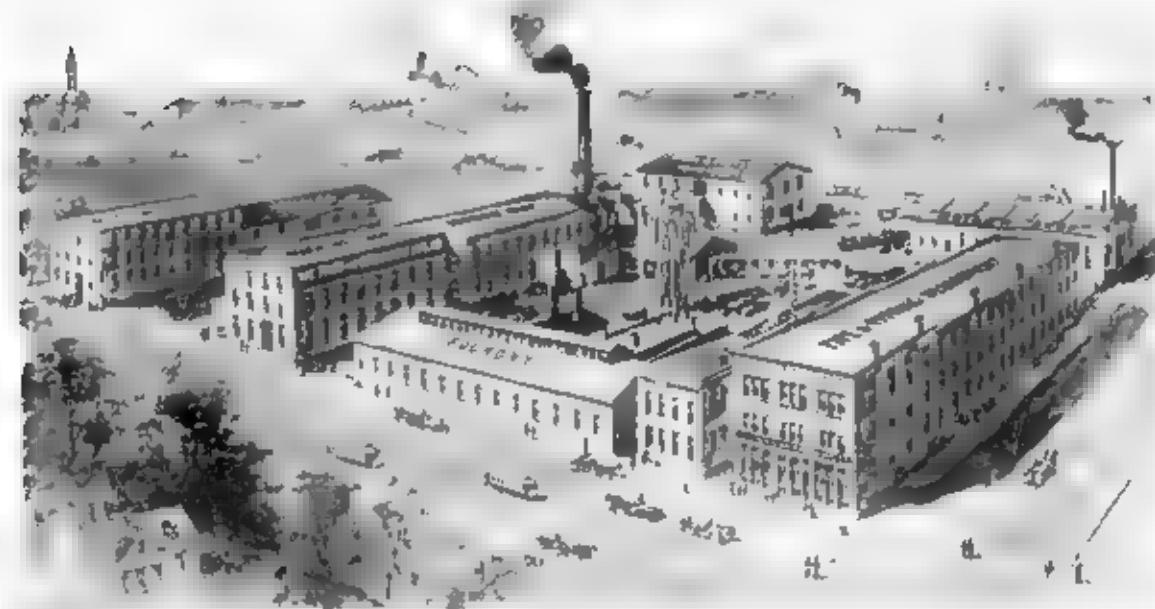
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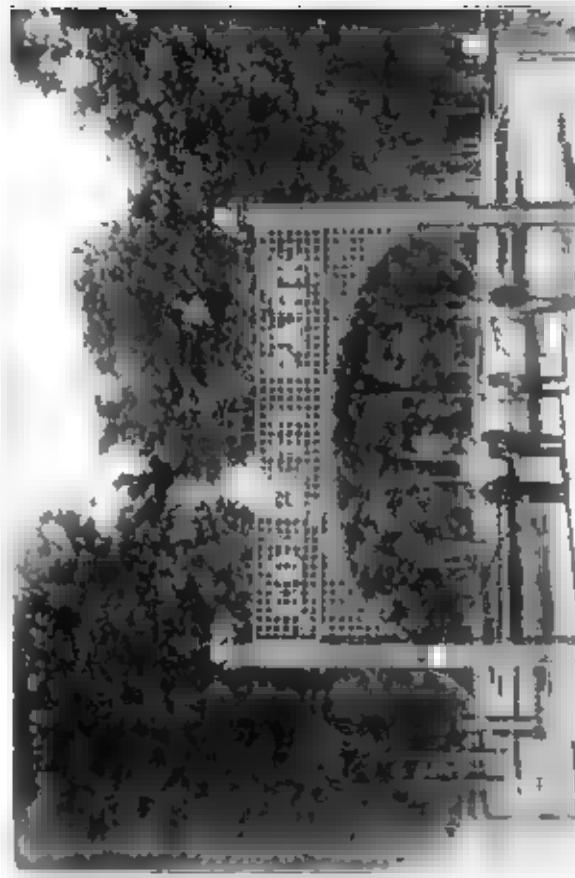
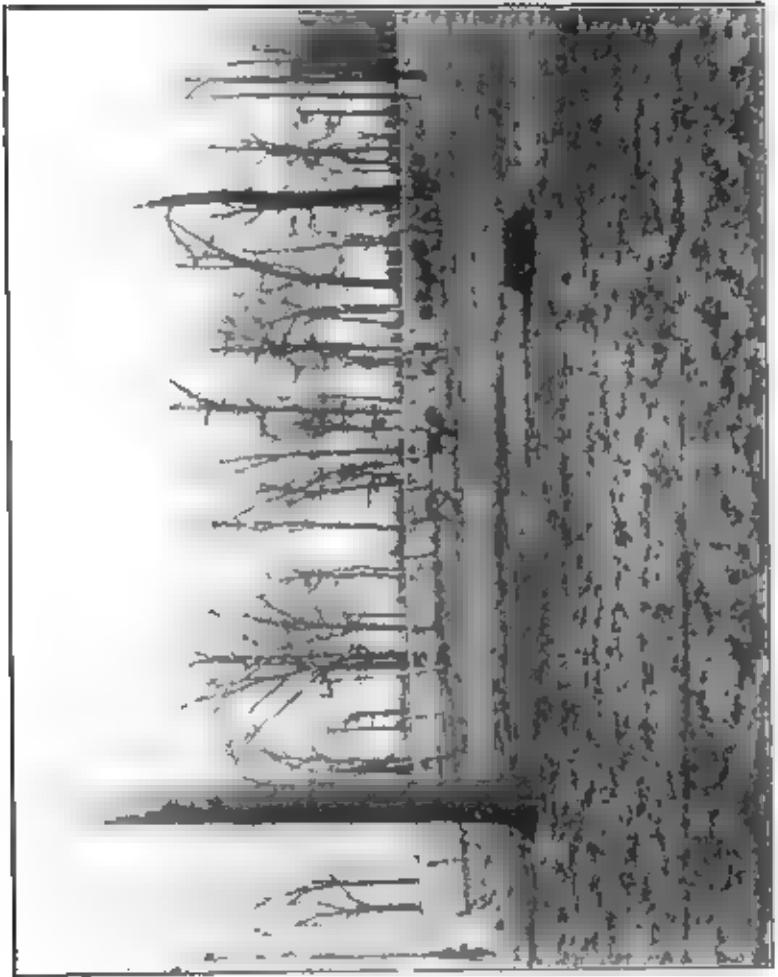
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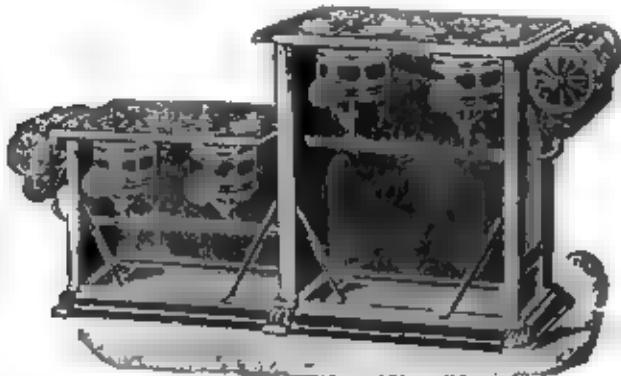
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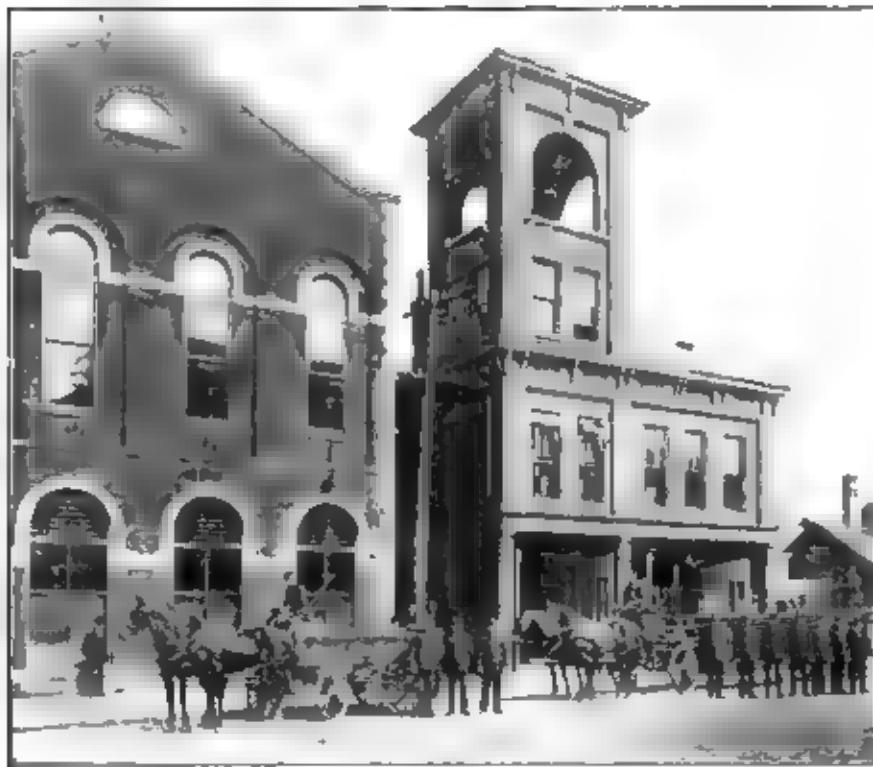
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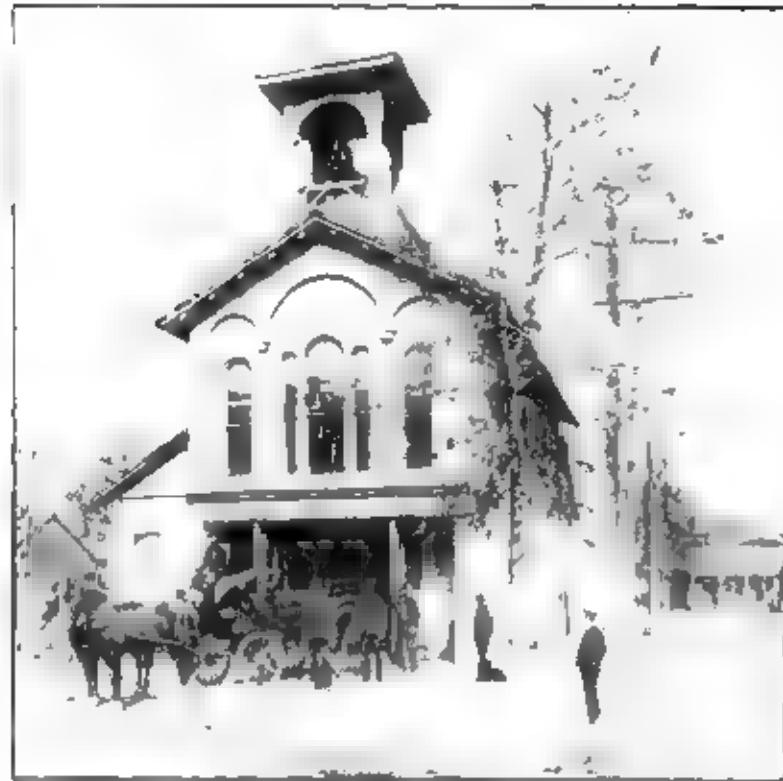
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